



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

Jan. 9, 2014

Santa Clarita Valley Bank Employee Sentenced for Stealing from Customers

A 25-year-old bank employee was sentenced today after he admitted stealing thousands of dollars from Wells Fargo customers in the Santa Clarita Valley, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Greenberg said Samuel José Godínez was remanded into custody after being sentenced to one year in county jail and three years of formal probation in case PA081315.

Godínez entered an open no contest plea on Nov. 4 to two counts of grand theft of personal property and one count each of non-sufficient fund check/multiple checks and theft from an elder.

An open plea is one where there is no settlement agreement with prosecutors.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge David Stuart of the San Fernando Branch also ordered the defendant to pay nearly \$25,000 in restitution to Wells Fargo Bank.

Godínez used customer bank information to steal thousands of dollars from two people between January and April 2014, the prosecutor said. His victims included an 81-year-old woman from whom he stole more than \$16,000, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Clarita Valley Station.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety.